
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5250 (File 138, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT OF PRIMARY POLLING PLACE OFFICIALS.

SUMMARY:

This bill lifts the requirement that primary polling place officials (i.e., moderators, deputy head moderators, checkers, challengers, voting tabulator tenders, assistant registrars, and absentee ballot counters) reside in the municipality or political subdivision holding the primary. It thus allows registrars of voters to appoint state electors to these positions, which they may already do for elections.

The law requires primary polling place officials to be enrolled members of the party holding the primary. The bill retains this requirement, with one exception. It allows registrars to appoint a state elector, regardless of party enrollment, as a checker, challenger, voting tabulator tender, or assistant registrar if an insufficient number of party members consent to serve in the positions.

The law allows candidates in a primary to designate polling place officials by submitting their names to the registrar of voters. Currently, candidates must do so 21 days before the primary for moderators and 10 days beforehand for other polling place officials. The bill changes the deadline for submitting names of officials other than moderators to 21 days before the primary.

Finally, the bill requires registrars to train prospective primary polling place officials on how to perform their duties. Current law does not have such a training requirement.

The bill also makes a technical change.

*Senate Amendment "A" makes a technical change and also adds the (1) deadline for submitting polling place officials' names to

registrars and (2) training requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0 (03/12/2012)